



State of California
The Natural Resources Agency
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE	JDSF – Facilities Protect Hazard Tree Removals		
PROJECT LOCATION	Jackson Demonstration State Forest Fort Bragg, CA 95437	COUNTY	Mendocino
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
CONTACT	Mike Powers, Forester II		
ADDRESS	CALFIRE Jackson Demonstration State Forest 802 North Main Street Fort Bragg, CA 95437	PHONE	(707) 964-5674

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Jackson Demonstration State Forest (JDSF) occupies an area of approximately 48,652 acres within Mendocino County, California. Within the boundaries of JDSF are existing facilities that are surrounded by a forested landscape. Disease and mortality of individual trees or damage due to storms creates individual hazard trees that due to the location of the tree threatens existing facilities and the safety of CALFIRE staff and the public.

The facilities within JDSF that require maintenance and the periodic removal of individual hazard trees includes existing roads, drainage facilities, bridges, structures, recreation facilities, buildings, utilities, gates, water tanks, water wells and other appurtenant structures/sites (radio towers, communications, weather stations, etc). When an individual tree is determined to be diseased, dead or structurally unstable it will be assessed for potential hazard to an existing facility or potential to threaten human safety or life. Generally, trees will be within one tree length of an existing facility to pose a hazard and threat to the facility and staff/public.

The scope of hazard tree removals involves the cutting of a hazard tree to safely put the tree or parts of a tree on the ground to eliminate the potential for damage to existing facilities or harm staff and public if the tree falls without warning on its own. The work to eliminate the tree hazard may include tree falling, topping or tree limbing. The work will generally involve the use of chainsaws to cut the tree/tree parts and heavy equipment to move tree parts off and away from facilities such as roads

EXEMPTION STATUS

- ☒ Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class 1 and 4
- ☐ Statutory Exemption (state code section):
- ☐ Ministerial (§21080(b)(1); 15268)
- ☐ Declared Emergency (§21080(b)(3); 15269(a))
- ☐ Emergency Project (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))

REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT

This project fits under portions of two classes of Categorical Exemptions to CEQA: Class 1 (Existing Facilities) and Class 4 (Minor Alterations to Land). Most of the project activities will occur within previously disturbed areas. The areas where new ground disturbing activities might occur are limited and are best described as minor in scope.

Field review by CAL FIRE staff confirmed that no exceptions apply which would preclude the use of a Notice of Exemption for this project. The Department has concluded that no significant environmental impact would occur to aesthetics, agriculture and forestland/timberland, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation/traffic, or to utilities and service systems. Documentation of the environmental review completed by the Department is kept on file at JDSF Offices in Fort Bragg.



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DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Helge Eng".

4/26/16

Helge Eng, Deputy Director Date
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

APR 27 2016

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE